(e) whether Government propose to consider purchasing foodgrains from the farmers at higher remunerative rates/support price on the basis of cost of production of the foodgrains; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) To provide protection to the farmers from exploitation Regulated markets are established under state legislation known as Agricultural Produce Markets Act. 6640 markets out of the total 6934 wholesale assembling markets have been brought under the ambit of the Regulations. Central assistance is also provided for setting up rural godowns to safeguard the interest of the producers—sellers against distress sales immediately after the harvest.

(e) and (f) The Government announces each season procurement/support prices for major agricultural commodities taking into account the cost of production and other relevant factors. It also organises purchase operation through public and Cooperative Agencies.

Wilt disease among crops

4077. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quick wilt disease is spreading among the crops in certain areas of Kerala; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to eradicate the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. It is a specific disease of peppervines in Kerala caused by a fungus and does not affect other crops.

(b) A suitable control strategy has been evolved by the experts for management of Quick Wilt disease. Accordingly, State Government is popularising the following components of the strategy:—

(i) Spraying of Vines during May-June with recommended fungicides after the first monsoon showers, followed by second round of treatment during August-September.

(ii) Application of Bordeaux paste to the Collar region during May-June period.

(iii) Application of recommended fertilisers in two splits during May-June and August-September.

(iv) Avoidance of water stagnation, lopping of the standards during May and pruning of runner shoots lying on the ground.

खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन

4078. **श्री रणजीत सिंह :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा:
श्री कमल मोरारका :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले चार दशकों के दौरान देश में खाद्यान्न-उत्पादन में काफी वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1950 से आरंभ हुए दशक के आरंभ में खाद्यान्न का उत्पादन कितना था; तथा 1980 के अंत में यह उत्पादन कितना था ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि 1950 के दशक में खाद्य उत्पादन की औसत दर 3 प्रतिशत थी जो 1980 के दशक में बढ़कर 3.5 प्रतिशत हो गई; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने औसत दर में मामूली वृद्धि होने के कारणों का